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Chief, Materials Division, ORR

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Chief, Ferrous Metals Branch, D/M/RR

Request for Information on US-Soviet Trade

A. Can do off the cuff (2 days)

For manganese ore, chromite, and certain ferroalloys we can report on US imports as they are at the present time (1957 in most cases). This would include data on total imports (tons) and the countries of origin. In general we have or possibly could estimate the value of total imports of each commodity (1956 or 1957) and in some cases we could give the value (probably 1956) of imports by country of origin.

In general terms we could outline the apparent supply picture in the USSR (production plus imports less exports) and could evaluate Soviet capabilities of exporting to the US.

As for the potential dollar value of USSR exports to the US, I doubt that a "meaningful" estimate can be made. Language outlining the problems involved in such trade, from the viewpoint of American consumers, could be given--including background data on US imports from the USSR in earlier years.

Regarding possible USSR imports from the US, some general statements could be made based on reported feelers put out by Soviet visitors, etc.

B. Could do in 4-5 days

All the above plus a detailed evaluation of the possible impact on present suppliers of a shift by the US to Soviet supplies. This would involve data on the relative importance of the US market to countries now exporting to the US--in total and possibly in terms of various grades of ores (e. g. metallurgical, refractory, chemical grades of chromite.)

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